

I am writing to support HB 6261. I will not be attending the public hearing due to a scheduling conflict but I believe it important to offer support for this legislation.

I am a volunteer hiking trail maintainer for Connecticut Forest & Park Association. As such, I spend a considerable amount of time working in the private and public forests of Connecticut. I quite often encounter ATV riders and have frequent opportunities to talk with them about the riding that they are doing. They are always aware that they are riding illegally and usually deny that they are having any adverse effects on the environment even when they come upon me repairing eroded trails or repairing a damaged bridge. When I point out that they are subject to a fine for the unregistered ATV or for being on state land, they tell me that if they are caught, the relatively small fine is "just the price of having fun." While this is just anecdotal information, it is based on many encounters with ATVers in the forest and many discussions with them in other venues.

My hope is that a joint favorable report on this bill and subsequent passage of the bill into law will provide some incentive for ATV riders to reconsider the price they might pay for ignoring the law.

I also hope that legislation embodied in the several other proposed ATV bills this year will result in the creation of ATV trails on public property and a system of funding and maintaining them.

Thank you,  
Robert T. Andrews  
Preston, CT